IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 13 with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] As best shown in Figure 2A, the firing tip 18 is partially assembled within the through hole 20 of the ground electrode 14. The ground electrode 14 is preferably fixed to the housing 12, such as through a resistance weld joint, and is preferably straight, and not yet bent into the L-shaped configuration shown in Figure 1. In addition, the casing 12 and ground electrode 14 are preferably coated, for example with nickel or a nickel-based alloy, prior to inserting the firing tip 18 into the through hole 20. The ground electrode 14, has an upper surface 38 and a lower surface 40 generally parallel to one another with the through hole 20 extending between the upper and lower surfaces 38, 40. Preferably, a counterbore 42 is formed and extends from at least one the upper and lower surfaces 38, 40, shown here as a lower surface 40 of the ground electrode 14, into the through hole 20 about 0.005-0.010". The counterbore 42 is shown having a tapered surface **[[44]]** that is oblique relative to the upper surface 38, and preferably has a chamfer of about 15°-25° relative to axis 22, though it should be recognized other configurations may be desirable, for example a generally stepped configuration. The ground electrode 14 is preferably constructed from a nickel-based material, for example and without limitation, an Inconel or 836 alloy, and can be made with or without a copper core. With the through hole 20 formed in the ground electrode 14, the firing tip 18 is inserted with the through hole 20.